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Testimony of the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association  
IN SUPPORT OF SUBSTITUTION HB 4718, SECOND PAIR OF HANDS BILL  
Before the Michigan Senate  
March 22, 2012

Good morning- my name is Brenda Marriott and I am the President of the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association. I am here to speak with you today as the voice of our Professional Association, which represents 10,000 Registered Dental Hygienists' in the state of Michigan.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express the need for you to stand with us in support of SUBSTITUTION HB 4718, SECOND PAIR OF HANDS BILL.

The people of Michigan have faced a tremendous loss of jobs, homes and especially health care. Dentistry plays a significant part in the health and well being of the patient. However, many Michigan residents are without access to dental care, whether it is from finances or inability for a provider to see them. Children in some counties have access while others do not, and there is a lack of dental offices willing or able to accept Medicaid even for the children. This lack of acceptance of Medicaid comes from low reimbursement rates.

Since 2005 Michigan Dental Hygienists' working in 55, PA 161 Collaborative Practices across our state have been providing preventative services under the supervision of a dentist. There are many times when the dentist as well as the dental hygienist needs assistance with a patient. Whether it be help with a periodontal charting, assistance taking radiographs, suctioning, maintaining a dry field for sealant placement, retraction, patient transfer from a wheel chair to the dental chair, holding the arms of a developmentally disabled patient so they don't hurt themselves or the operator, holding the head of a patient with Turrets Syndrome, working with a Dementia or Alzheimer's patient. All of these examples are just a few of the challenges the dental team face daily. To deny the dental Hygienist the help of a dental assistant in the form of a second pair of hands puts the patient, the dental hygienist, the supervising dentist and the whole practice at risk. It is important to note that the SECOND PAIR OF HANDS assists the hygienist and does not do the procedure, rather helps the provider accomplish that task.

I have been in the dental field for the past 43 years. I am a dental assistant, dental hygienist, dental hygiene educator, clinician, dental wife, mother of a dentist and dental lab

technician. I have been around long enough to know for a fact that there are times when you absolutely do need the valuable help of a dental assistant in order to give the safe standard of care we all need and deserve.

We have worked closely with the Michigan Dental Association on the substitution of this bill and are proud to have their support for the Substitution HB 4718 BILL.

As President of the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association and the voice of all 10,000 Registered Dental Hygienists' in the state of Michigan I ask you to stand with us as well in support of SUBSTITUTION OF HB 4718, SECOND PAIR OF HANDS BILL and vote YES today to send this bill to the full House for consideration.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Marriott". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brenda Marriott RDH, BS

President

Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association